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Leader Says Knowledge, Commitment Strengthen Sharia-Based Governance

KABUL: Shaikh Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzadah, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate, underscored

the importance of knowledge, responsibility, and commitment as key pillars in strengthening governance based on Sharia principles.

The message has been sent to the graduation ceremony of students from 11 faculties of Kandahar University, emphasized that effective administration of social and political affairs depends on awareness, discipline, and adherence to Islamic teachings, according to Alemara Dari on Friday.

The ceremony brought together prominent figures, including Kandahar Governor Mullah Shirin Akhund, the commander of special forces, the Kandahar police chief, representatives of government institutions, and officials from both public and private universities, Alemara said.The message stressed that Muslims have been entrusted with the responsibility of managing social affairs and therefore must seek knowledge and understanding to properly guide governance based on Sharia principles. It emphasized building and strengthening an Islamic system grounded in religion and Islamic values.

The message further stated that the current system was established through struggle and that efforts must continue to uphold and promote the supremacy of Islam, and called on graduates to take responsibility within the system, support its principles, and act in accordance with its laws and guidance, while encouraging others to do the same.

It also warned that failure to maintain obedience could lead to disorder and weaken the system, noting that historical Islamic states have collapsed when unity and discipline were lost.

Graduates were urged to pass on the values of struggle and commitment to future generations and to clearly convey their importance.

Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Mullah Shirin Akhund said that the gap between religious schools and universities has now been removed and noted that even during the period of struggle, university students were part of the movement and contributed in various ways.

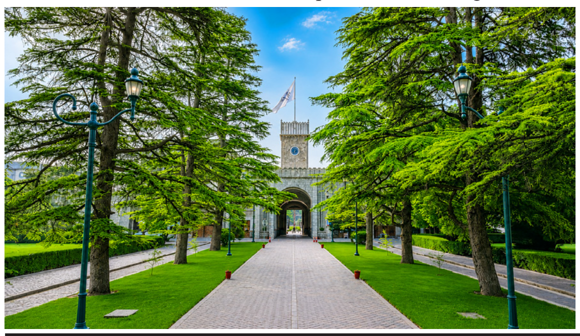
He congratulated the graduates and urged them to use their knowledge in serving religion, society, and the nation, while preserving Islamic and Afghan values and contributing to social development.

A total of 754 students graduated this year from 11 faculties of Kandahar University.

The Kabul Times

Administrative Commission Reviews Health, Urban Development Issues

KABUL: The meeting of the Administrative Commission was held with Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlavi Abdul Salam



Hanafi, on the chair, to discuss key administrative issues related to the Ministries of Public Health and Urban Development and Housing, as well as challenges facing the country's private hospitals.The meeting, attended by members of the commission and representatives of private hospitals, conducted a comprehensive review of issues affecting healthcare services and urban development before adopting the necessary decisions, Arg said in a statement the other day.According to the statement, additional agenda items requiring further technical assessment were referred to specialized committees for detailed evaluation.

The Kabul Times

Fitrat: Afghanistan Is Not a Threat to Any Country

KABUL: Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, has stated that Afghanistan does not pose any threat to any country and that nationwide security has been fully ensured since the return of the Islamic Emirate to power.

In his remarks, Fitrat rejected recent claims suggesting that Afghan territory could be used against other states, describing such allegations as baseless.

He emphasized that all security and defense institutions in the country are operating under a unified command structure and that no individual or group is permitted to use Afghan soil for activities targeting other countries.

"We consider these claims that Afghanistan poses a threat to other countries to be baseless. Afghanistan is not a danger to any country. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, nationwide security has been ensured, and all security and defense forces operate under a unified command. Furthermore, no individual or group is allowed to use Afghan territory against other countries or engage in armed activities," he said.His statement comes in response to recent concerns raised by member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which alleged the presence of armed groups near Afghanistan's northern borders and warned that such developments could pose risks to regional stability.

Islamic Emirate officials have repeatedly reaffirmed their position that Afghan territory will not be used against any other country and that they remain committed to preventing any group from carrying out activities that could threaten regional security.

The Kabul Times

TAPI Project Advancing at Full Speed, Mujahid Says

KABUL: Zabihullah Mujahid, the Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, said in a statement the other day that construction work on the TAPI gas pipeline project is progressing at a steady and rapid pace.

According to him, approximately 130 kilometers of the pipeline route have already been leveled and prepared for construction, while 91 kilometers of pipeline have been successfully installed to date.He further explained that the total distance from the Turkmenistan border to the Herat industrial park is 153 kilometers, and the pipeline will continue to extend along this route as construction progresses.

The project is considered one of the major regional infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving energy connectivity and economic cooperation.

The Kabul Times

Noorullah Noori Highlights Leadership's Commitment to Sharia

KABUL: Noorullah Noori, the country's Minister of Borders, Ethnic and Tribal Affairs, stated during a large public gathering with Kochi (nomadic) representatives from eight provinces that the leadership of the Islamic Emirate holds a distinguished position in Islamic scholarship and demonstrates a strong and unwavering commitment to the implementation of Islamic Sharia.Addressing tribal elders, religious scholars, and influential Kochi representatives, Noori emphasized that the leadership's dedication to Sharia stands out both within and outside the current administration, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.

He described this commitment as consistent, firm, and rooted in religious conviction."As far as I know, and based on the many people I have known, no one whether within the administration or outside it is as committed to and unwavering in upholding Sharia as he is," Noori said, underlining that addressing the legitimate needs and concerns of the people is not only an administrative duty but also a religious obligation for officials of the Islamic Emirate. According to him, efforts will continue to resolve challenges faced by different communities, particularly the Kochi population, and to ensure that their needs are properly addressed through government institutions.

Noori also reflected on the history of Afghanistan's ethnic groups, stating that they endured decades of conflict and remained committed to their faith and national values. He praised their sacrifices during periods of war and instability, saying they contributed significantly and remained steadfast through difficult times."This nation deserves not only our affection but even the value of our blood," he said, emphasizing the depth of commitment he believes is owed to the people.Meanwhile, Kochi elders expressed their appreciation for national stability and described the current system as a source of dignity and honor for Afghanistan, and reaffirmed their continued cooperation and support for the Islamic Emirate across various social and economic sectors.**The Kabul Times**

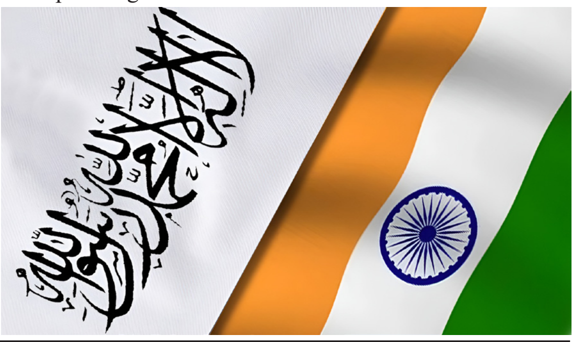
Afghan, Indian Officials Discuss Expanding Trade Cooperation

KABUL: Sayeed Karim Hashemi, the head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, in a meeting with officials from Indian trade Development Authority discussed expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation, ACCI said in a statement on Friday.

The Indian side announced plans to officially invite Afghanistan to participate in the upcoming India International Trade Fair (IITF) and expressed readiness to facilitate the participation of a delegation of 200 Afghan traders and investors, the statement added.

Both sides emphasized strengthening economic ties, increasing Afghan participation in international exhibitions, and promoting broader commercial cooperation between the two countries.

The Kabul Times

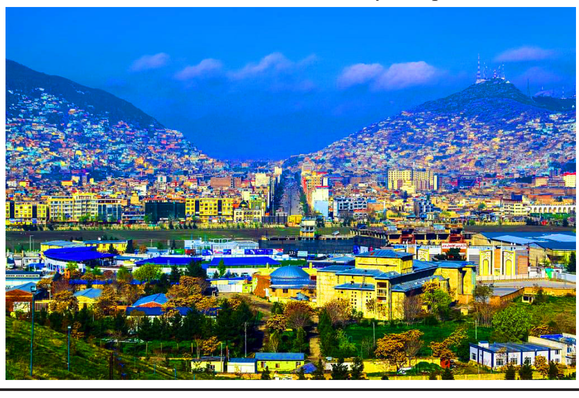


Kabul Mayor Stresses High-Quality Urban Development and Infrastructure Standards

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Rashid, Kabul Mayor, has stated that the city of Kabul deserves high-quality municipal services and sustainable urban development.

He confirmed that efforts to improve infrastructure and transportation systems in the capital are continuing in an organized and systematic manner, according to a statement from the Kabul Municipality on Friday.

The mayor expressed concern over the possibility of low-quality work and issued a strong warning against any negligence or failure to meet technical standards.



He stressed that all development projects must strictly follow established engineering and quality requirements and be completed within the designated timelines.

Mawlavi Rashid also emphasized accountability in project implementation and supervision.

He reaffirmed his personal commitment to serving the residents of Kabul, stating that he considers himself a servant of the people and is dedicated to ensuring that urban development projects are completed with high standards and efficiency.

The Kabul Times

UNICEF Reaffirms Support for Afghan Cultural, Educational Cooperation

KABUL: UNICEF has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with Afghan cultural and educational institutions, emphasizing continued support for programs aimed at promoting education, cultural development, and the intellectual growth of children and youth across the country.In a meeting with Mawlavi Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts of the Ministry of Information and Culture, representatives of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, discussed strengthening cooperation in cultural development, education, and the intellectual growth of children and youth in Afghanistan, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.Mawlavi Azizi expressed appreciation for UNICEF's continued support and said the ministry is ready to expand collaboration in several key areas, including promoting a culture of reading, strengthening public libraries, and supporting literary and cultural production for children.

He also highlighted the regular participation of students and young people in national cultural institutions, including public libraries, the National Archives, the National Museum, and cultural training centers, where they are introduced to Afghanistan's historical and cultural heritage.UNICEF representatives presented updates on their ongoing programs and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing and strengthening cooperation with Afghan cultural and educational institutions. Both sides emphasized the importance of expanding joint initiatives aimed at supporting the intellectual and cultural development of children and youth across the country.**The Kabul Times**

ATRA Orders Telecom Operators to Restore Lower Package Prices

KABUL: Afghanistan's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority has instructed all telecommunications companies to reverse recent increases in voice and internet package prices, following a high-level meeting with telecom operators, ATRA said in a statement the other day.The meeting, chaired by ATRA Technical Deputy Ata Mohammad Yari,

focused on service pricing, quality, consumer protection, and regulatory compliance.

"Affordable pricing and quality telecommunications services are fundamental consumer rights," the statement said, warning operators that failure to comply with approved regulations could result in legal action.ATRA reaffirmed its commitment to protecting customers while ensuring telecommunications companies provide services in accordance with national laws and regulatory standards.

The Kabul Times

Construction Begins on Four Water Dams in Kandahar to Improve Agriculture

KANDAHAR: Construction work has begun on four small water dam projects in the districts of Spin Boldak, Arghistan, Khakrez, and Arghandab of Kandahar province, the provincial Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development said in a statement the other day.

The projects valued at $300,000, are designed to improve water resource management, reduce the impact of drought, and support agricultural development in areas frequently affected by floods and water shortages.

The department head, Dost Mohammad Saeed, explained that the dams are being built according to technical engineering standards and will play an important role in storing and managing water resources more effectively.

He added that the government is also planning larger dam projects to further strengthen agriculture and improve long-term water security.

Local residents have welcomed the initiative, noting that prolonged drought in recent years has negatively affected livelihoods and forced some families to leave their homes.

They expressed hope that such projects would help prevent displacement, improve access to clean drinking water, and enhance agricultural productivity.

The relevant officials emphasized that the dams will contribute to irrigation, water storage, agricultural growth, and improved living conditions for residents in the targeted districts.

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Food for thought

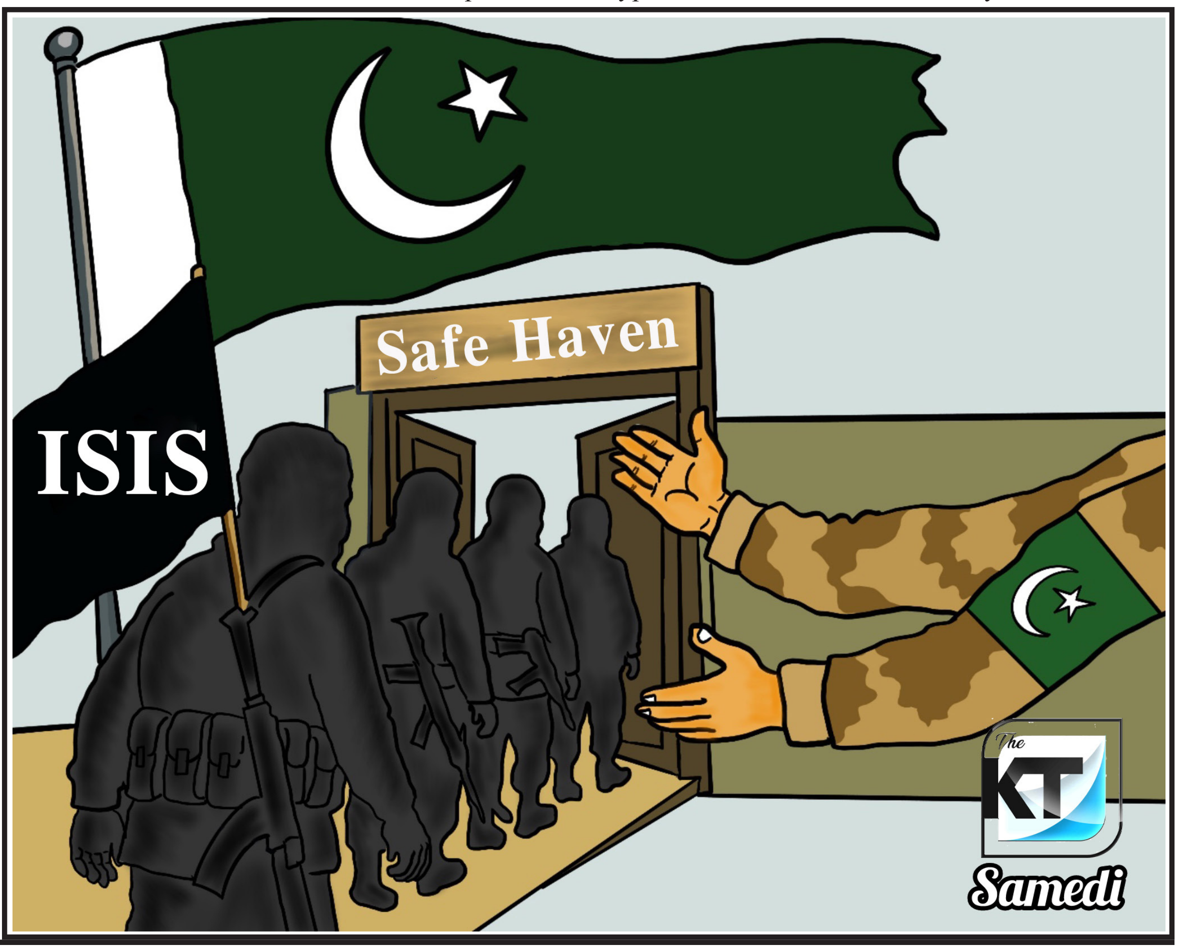
Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Afghanistan's Qambrkhel Operation Exposes Pakistan's Double Standards on Terrorism

By: Rahmat Shah Faraz

Al-Mirsaad, citing its sources, has reported that two ISIS members were killed during a recent operation in the Qambrkhel area.
The two men, identified by the aliases "Saud" and "Hamza," were active in the region on behalf of ISIS. Photos and videos released by Al-Mirsaad confirm their deaths.
The Islamic Emirate Ministry of Defense's operation against ISIS positions in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was effective and resulted in the elimination of these two militants.
Pakistan has long committed crimes and repeated aggressions against Afghanistan without facing serious responses from the international community. This time, however, the operation demonstrated that Afghanistan is capable of striking its enemies wherever they may be.
The significance of this operation lies not only in the tactical success against ISIS but also in the strategic message it conveys.
For years, Pakistan's military establishment has pursued policies that destabilized Afghanistan, supporting or tolerating extremist networks while denying responsibility.
The Qambrkhel operation shows that Afghanistan will no longer remain passive in the face of such threats.
It has the capacity to dismantle terrorist safe havens, even beyond its borders, when those havens are used to plan attacks against Afghan soil.
In response, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi claimed that the restoration of full diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan requires "practical, clear, and verifiable commitments" from the Islamic Emirate to ensure Afghan territory is not used for attacks against

Pakistan. He argued that armed groups in Afghanistan remain the main obstacle to normalizing relations.
These remarks, however, are baseless as reports consistently indicate the presence of anti-Afghanistan militant groups, including ISIS, inside Pakistan itself.
The narrative that Afghanistan is the source of instability ignores the reality that Pakistan's own territory has long served as a base for extremist organizations.
Andrabi's statement is therefore less a reflection of facts and more an attempt to deflect responsibility.
Political analyst Moeen Gul Samkani highlighted that Afghanistan has six neighboring countries and maintains good relations with five of them.
Only Pakistan continues to take a hostile and contradictory approach. Even Pakistani officials have previously admitted that their country's past policies contributed to the spread of terrorism. This acknowledgment underscores that the roots of the problem lie in Islamabad's choices, not Kabul's.Just a week earlier, the Islamic Emirate's Ministry of Defense announced that its air force had carried out strikes on several ISIS-linked sites in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These sites were reportedly used to plan and coordinate attacks against Afghanistan.
By targeting them, the Emirate demonstrated its resolve to protect Afghan citizens and prevent cross-border terrorism
.The broader implication is clear: Pakistan's military regime has so far avoided accountability for its repeated aggressions against Afghanistan.
Now, however, Afghanistan has proven that it can crush its security enemies wherever they operate.
This reality leaves Islamabad with no viable option but to engage in direct dialogue with the Islamic Emirate regarding mutual security and stability along the hypothetical Durand Line. Continued denial and blame-shifting will only deepen mistrust and prolong instability.
For Afghanistan, the Qambrkhel operation is a symbol of sovereignty and strength.
It reassures the Afghan people that their government is capable of defending them against external threats.
For Pakistan, it is a warning that the era of exploiting militant proxies is ending.
If Islamabad truly seeks peace, it must abandon its double standards and work with Kabul in good faith.
The report and subsequent analysis highlight a turning point in regional dynamics.
Afghanistan has shown that it will not tolerate threats to its security, regardless of where they originate. Pakistan's attempts to portray Afghanistan as the source of instability are contradicted by evidence of militant activity within its own borders.
The path forward is not through accusations but through dialogue.
Islamabad must recognize that only by cooperating with the Islamic Emirate can both countries achieve lasting stability.



Expanding Afghanistan–India Relations: Trade, Non-interference

The recent talks between Afghanistan and India to strengthen economic and trade cooperation mark a significant step toward revitalizing a partnership that has historically been mutually beneficial.
The meeting between representatives of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) and India's Special Representative for Afghanistan underscores both the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in shaping a more dynamic commercial relationship.
India has long been one of Afghanistan's most important trading partners, particularly in the agricultural sector at a time when the two nations are living peacefully under the non-interference policy of both friendly governments.
At one point, nearly half of Afghanistan's agricultural exports were destined for Indian markets. This level of engagement not only provided Afghan farmers and traders with a reliable outlet for their goods but also strengthened Afghanistan's economic resilience. However, logistical hurdles, particularly those linked to Iran's Chabahar Port, have disrupted this flow of trade. Delays in cargo shipments, high transportation costs, and difficulties in financial transactions have created barriers that Afghan traders struggle to overcome. The decision by India to resume issuing business visas for Afghan traders is a welcome development. It signals New Delhi's willingness to re-engage with Afghanistan's private sector and to facilitate smoother commercial exchanges under the Islamicsystem. Yet, visas alone will not resolve the deeper structural challenges.
Without addressing the bottlenecks in transportation and financial systems, Afghan exports will continue to face prohibitive costs and delays. Suggestions to expand the use of cargo flights, while practical in theory, remain economically unfeasible for most Afghan traders due to the high expense of air freight. For Afghanistan's private sector, reopening land routes, particularly the Wagah border crossing, would provide a far more sustainable solution.The broader context of Afghanistan–India relations also deserves attention. India has consistently supported Afghanistan through infrastructure projects, educational initiatives, and investments in development, all without interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. This approach has built trust and goodwill, laying a foundation for deeper economic cooperation. Strengthening trade ties is not merely about boosting exports. It is about reinforcing Afghanistan's integration into regional markets and reducing its dependence on limited trade corridors. For Afghanistan, diversifying trade routes and partners is essential to overcoming its geographic and political constraints. For India, engaging more robustly with Afghan markets offers both economic and strategic advantages, particularly in the context of regional competition. The reaffirmation by both sides of their commitment to continued cooperation is encouraging, but it must be followed by concrete measures to reduce logistical barriers, streamline financial transactions, and ensure that Afghan products can reach Indian consumers efficiently. Afghanistan's economic future depends on building resilient partnerships. India, with its vast market and history of constructive engagement, remains one of the most promising allies in this endeavor. The challenge now lies in translating diplomatic goodwill into practical solutions that empower Afghan traders and strengthen the economic bridge between Kabul and New Delhi.

Afghanistan's Anti-Drug Victory Redrawing Global Narcotics

By: Ghulam Reza Omidi

The global narcotics landscape is experiencing a fundamental structural shift, driven by an unprecedented and sustained contraction in traditional opiate production. According to recent data and assessments from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Afghanistan's domestic anti-narcotics enforcement has achieved a historic milestone, maintaining a 95% reduction in opium poppy cultivation over a consecutive three-year period spanning 2023, 2024, and 2025. This multi-year

suppression represents a critical departure from historical supply trends, as the country previously accounted for approximately 80% of the world's illicit supply of opium. While previous eradication campaigns in the region historically faltered after a single year, the enforcement mechanism established by the 2022 ban on the cultivation and production of illicit drugs has demonstrated unique institutional permanence. UNODC representative Polleak Ok Serei characterized this development as an unprecedented global milestone, noting that the sustained nature of the decline has permanently altered international supply chains. Local authorities within Afghanistan have echoed these assessments, maintaining that rigorous domestic enforcement measures have effectively pushed the cultivation, processing, and trafficking of traditional narcotics close to absolute zero. However, this rapid structural contraction has introduced severe socio-economic friction within the country. The eradication of the poppy economy has eliminated the primary revenue stream for millions of rural households, leaving a critical economic void. In response, international agencies have fundamentally recalibrated their operational portfolios, shifting programmatic resources toward agricultural diversification and alternative livelihoods for displaced farmers. The UNODC has noted that while these

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World Population Day: Recognizing People as the Cornerstone of National Development

By: Azar Rasikh

Every year, World Population Day is observed across the globe to highlight the importance of population issues and their impact on sustainable development, economic growth, and social progress.

The occasion provides governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and citizens with an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities associated with population growth and human development.The population is far more than a statistical figure. It represents the human capital that drives economic productivity, innovation, cultural development, and national strength. In today's interconnected world, discussions about population are not limited to numbers alone; they encompass education, healthcare, employment, migration, urbanization, youth empowerment, and the overall quality of life. For this reason, World Population Day serves as an important reminder that people remain the most valuable resource of any nation.

The origins of World Population Day date back to 1987, when the global population reached five billion people.

Recognizing the significance of this milestone, the United Nations established World Population Day to raise awareness about demographic trends and their implications for sustainable development. Since then, the observance has encouraged discussions on family well-being, public health, economic opportunities, and the responsible management of population-related challenges.Throughout history, nations that have successfully invested in their people have achieved remarkable economic and social progress. Human resources are the engine of national development. A healthy, educated, and skilled population can transform a country's economic prospects, strengthen institutions, and improve living standards. Conversely, when human potential remains underdeveloped, countries often struggle with poverty, unemployment, and social instability.One of the most significant demographic advantages a country can possess is a large youth population. Young people bring energy, creativity, innovation, and resilience to society. They are capable of driving technological advancement, entrepreneurship, scientific research, and economic growth. However, a youthful population can become either a powerful opportunity or a major challenge, depending on how effectively it is supported through education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.Today, countries around the world face different demographic challenges. Some are experiencing rapid population growth, which places pressure on natural resources, healthcare systems, educational institutions, and labor markets. Others are dealing with aging populations and declining birth rates, leading to labor shortages and increased social welfare costs.

Migration, climate change, armed conflicts, and economic crises further complicate demographic trends and influence population dynamics across continents.Education remains one of the most effective tools for addressing population-related challenges and maximizing human potential. Societies with higher levels of literacy and education generally enjoy better health outcomes, stronger economies, and improved standards of living. Education equips individuals with the skills needed to participate productively in society and make informed decisions about their future.Particularly important is the development of young people through quality education, vocational training, and professional skill-building. Modern economies increasingly rely on knowledge, innovation, and technical expertise. Therefore, investment in human capital is no longer optional; it is essential for long-term competitiveness and national prosperity.Population growth is also closely linked to sustainable development. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

As populations expand, demand for food, water, energy, housing, healthcare, and education increases.

Effective planning is necessary to ensure that resources are managed responsibly and that economic growth remains environmentally sustainable.

For Afghanistan, the population question carries special significance. The country is among the nations with one of the youngest populations in the region. A substantial portion of Afghanistan's citizens are children and young adults, creating a demographic profile that could become a major driver of national development in the coming decades.

This youthful population represents a tremendous opportunity. If provided with education, vocational skills, employment opportunities, and access to healthcare, Afghan youth can contribute significantly to economic growth, technological development, agricultural modernization, and entrepreneurship. They can become the architects of a more prosperous, stable, and self-reliant Afghanistan.At the same time, the country faces important challenges. Unemployment, poverty, migration, and limited economic opportunities continue to affect many communities. To fully benefit from its demographic potential, Afghanistan requires sustained investment in education, technical training, infrastructure development, and job creation. Strengthening these sectors can help transform the country's large youth population into a productive workforce capable of driving long-term growth.The responsibility for achieving this transformation does not rest solely with government institutions. Families, communities, educational institutions, and the private sector all have important roles to play. Families are the first environment in which values, discipline, and social responsibility are nurtured.

Healthy family structures contribute to the development of responsible, educated, and productive citizens.The youth themselves also carry a significant responsibility. The future of Afghanistan will largely depend on the knowledge, skills, and character of its younger generation.

Young Afghans must learn education, acquire practical skills, pursue innovation, and contribute positively to their communities. By investing in their own personal and professional development, they can become agents of progress and stability.From a broader perspective, the population should not be viewed merely as a challenge to manage but as a resource to cultivate. Countries that prioritize human development consistently outperform those that neglect their populations.

Economic growth, social stability, scientific advancement, and national resilience all depend on the strength and quality of human capital.

World Population Day reminds us that people are the foundation of every society. Roads, buildings, industries, and institutions are important, but it is people who create, maintain, and improve them. A healthy, educated, and empowered population forms the cornerstone of sustainable development and national progress.For Afghanistan, the path toward a brighter future lies in harnessing the energy and potential of its young population. By investing in education, healthcare, skills development, and economic opportunities, the country can transform its demographic advantage into lasting prosperity. The youth of today are not only the citizens of the present but also the leaders, innovators, and builders of tomorrow. Their success will determine the strength, stability, and development of Afghanistan for generations to come.In the end, population is not simply a number—it is a nation's greatest asset. When human potential is nurtured and empowered, it becomes the driving force behind development, prosperity, and a brighter future for all.

The Responsibility of Youth in Building a Strong and Prosperous Afghanistan

By: S. Naser Watandost

The future of every nation is largely determined by the intellectual, educational, and moral condition of its young generation. Young people are the most energetic, creative, and adaptable segment of society. The ideas they embrace today will shape tomorrow's politics, economy, culture, education, and social institutions. For this reason, examining the intellectual challenges facing today's youth is not merely an academic discussion; it is a matter directly connected to the nation's destiny. A society that nurtures its young people with knowledge, wisdom, moral values, and critical thinking creates the foundation for sustainable progress, while one whose youth suffer from intellectual confusion, identity crises, and moral uncertainty inevitably encounters obstacles to long-term development.

The twenty-first century is often described as the age of information. Never before in human history has any generation enjoyed such immediate access to knowledge and communication. Within seconds, information travels across continents, countless opinions are shared online, and millions of people are influenced by ideas circulating through digital platforms. At first glance, this appears to be an extraordinary opportunity for learning and intellectual growth. However, access to information should not be confused with genuine knowledge.

Information alone does not produce wisdom. Knowledge requires careful study, reflection, analysis, and sound judgment. One of the defining challenges facing today's youth is that the speed of information has surpassed the speed of thoughtful reflection. Young people encounter hundreds of messages, videos, and opinions every day, but often lack sufficient time to evaluate their credibility and significance. As a result, the ability to distinguish truth from misinformation has become more important than ever before.

In previous generations, information was obtained through limited and generally trusted sources. Today, virtually anyone can publish opinions, spread narratives, or influence public thinking through social media. This reality makes intellectual independence an essential quality for young people.

Without critical thinking, individuals become vulnerable to manipulation, propaganda, rumors, and emotional appeals. Therefore, education should not merely transmit information; it should cultivate analytical thinking, sound reasoning, and the ability to distinguish fact from falsehood.

Another major challenge confronting modern youth is the question of identity. Globalization has brought cultures, societies, and nations closer together than ever before. While this creates valuable opportunities for learning and cooperation, it also presents risks to cultural and religious identity. Young people who lack a clear understanding of their faith, history, traditions, and national values can easily become influenced by external trends that may conflict with their beliefs and heritage.

Identity is not simply about preserving memories of the past; it provides individuals with a sense of purpose, belonging, and direction. For Afghan youth, maintaining a strong Islamic identity while remaining open to beneficial knowledge and technological advancement is essential for personal growth and national development.

From an Islamic perspective, knowledge ('ilm) occupies one of the highest positions in human life. The first revelation to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) began with the command:

"Read in the name of your Lord who created." (Qur'an 96:1)

This powerful message established learning as the foundation of Islamic civilization. Throughout history, Muslim scholars made remarkable contributions to science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, engineering, and philosophy because Islam encourages believers to seek beneficial knowledge wherever it may be found.

The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) further emphasized the importance of education by teaching that seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim. This obligation extends beyond religious learning to include knowledge that benefits society, improves livelihoods, strengthens communities, and serves humanity.

Unfortunately, one of today's growing concerns is the decline of deep reading and serious study. While technology has made information widely available, it has also encouraged brief attention spans through short videos, rapid social media posts, and superficial content. As a result, many young people consume large quantities of information without developing deep understanding or intellectual maturity.

Great civilizations are built through research, reading, thoughtful discussion, and continuous learning.

When reading loses its place in everyday life, creativity, innovation, and intellectual production inevitably decline. Therefore, families, schools, universities, and religious institutions all share responsibility for encouraging a culture of reading and lifelong learning among young people.

Another challenge is the growing culture of instant fame. In earlier generations, success was measured by knowledge, integrity, public service, and meaningful achievements. Today, popularity on social media, numbers of followers, and online visibility are often mistakenly regarded as indicators of success. This shift encourages some young people to pursue temporary recognition rather than lasting excellence.

Islam teaches a fundamentally different standard of success. A person's value is determined not by public attention or worldly status but by sincerity, righteous character, beneficial knowledge, and service to others. Allah says in the Qur'an:

"Indeed, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Qur'an 49:13)

This verse reminds believers that true honor lies in piety, integrity, and moral excellence rather than external appearances or popularity.

Economic difficulties also significantly influence the intellectual development of young people. Unemployment, poverty, and uncertainty about the future often limit opportunities for education, research, and professional growth. When young people are preoccupied with meeting their basic needs, they have fewer opportunities to develop their talents fully. Sustainable economic development, job creation,

and vocational education, therefore, play an essential role in strengthening both individual potential and national progress.

Equally important is the availability of positive role models. Every generation needs scholars, teachers, entrepreneurs, scientists, community leaders, and individuals of strong moral character who inspire young people through their example.

When society celebrates superficial celebrities instead of knowledgeable and ethical individuals, many young people struggle to identify meaningful models to emulate. Strong leadership grounded in knowledge, humility, and service is therefore indispensable for nurturing responsible future generations.

Despite these challenges, today's youth possess opportunities that previous generations could scarcely imagine.

Digital technology provides access to the world's leading universities, scientific research, online courses, professional training, and international collaboration.

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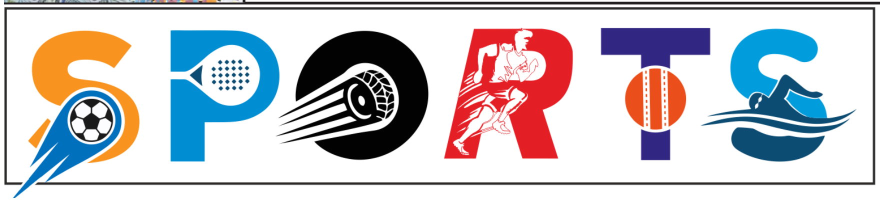


Sports Directorate Welcomes Head Coach Dejan Dedović

Afghanistan's futsal ecosystem enters an ambitious new era following the official appointment of Serbian tactician Dejan Dedović as the head coach of the national team.
To solidify institutional alignment, Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, the Technical and Professional Deputy of the General Directorate of Olympic, Physical Education, and Sports, hosted an official welcoming meeting for Dedović and his incoming technical staff at his Kabul office.
The strategic meeting follows a newly inked two-year contract between the Futsal Committee of the Afghanistan Football Federation and the veteran Serbian manager.
Welcoming the new technical crew, Deputy Zadran expressed strong optimism that Dedović's international experience will elevate the national squad's global competitiveness. He reaffirmed the Directorate's commitment to providing continuous, timely support to address the logistical and structural needs of the athletes and coaching staff.
In response, the newly formed technical committee assured sports officials of their dedication to structurally developing the roster.
Dedović and his staff pledged to work tirelessly to refine local talent and optimize the team's tactical framework, aiming to build a highly competitive squad capable of making a lasting impact on the international futsal circuit.
The Kabul Times

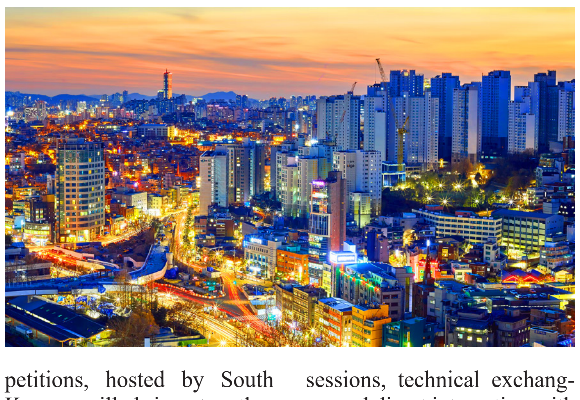
9th Powerlifting Selection Tournament Wraps Up in Kabul

Kabul's powerlifting community showcased remarkable strength and resilience as the 9th annual city selection tournament drew to a close. Organized by the National Powerlifting Federation in close coordination with the Kabul Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, the intense three-day competition took place at the General Directorate of Sports' 500-capacity gymnasium.
The event brought together over 120 elite powerlifters representing eight major clubs across Kabul province. Athletes pushed their physical limits across four distinct age demographics: Sub-Juniors, Juniors, Masters, and the highly competitive Open category.At the tournament's conclusion, 15 standout lifters earned coveted spots on the Kabul Selection Team, officially securing their eligibility to compete in the upcoming National Powerlifting Championships. Among the individual triumphs, powerhouse athlete Mustafa Attaie claimed the prestigious title of Kabul's Strongest Lifter, taking home the championship belt and a cash prize.
The closing ceremony featured prominent sports figures, including Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq, Director General of the country's sports administration, alongside Technical Deputy Hafiz

Ahmad Jan Zadran and Kabul Sports Director Mawlavi Atiqullah Khalid.
Addressing the audience, Wasiq emphasized that local sports programs are moving forward systematically in line with annual strategic plans. He noted that the environment for domestic athletes to transition to the global stage has improved significantly, pledging continued institutional support. Federation President Noor Ahmad Sakhizada praised the participants, noting that identifying top-tier talent in this 9th edition bodes well for Afghanistan's future representation in international arenas.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Para Taekwondo Team Takes Global Step in South Korea

Afghanistan's four-member Para Taekwondo team has departed for South Korea to participate in a training camp and the G4 International Open Championships, marking another step in the country's efforts to strengthen its presence in international para sports.
The training camp and competitions, hosted by South Korea, will bring together athletes from Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Spain, Egypt, China, Türkiye, France, and several other countries.
The event is scheduled to begin on June 30 in the host city of Mungyeong, South Korea, and will continue until July 10.
During the camp, Afghan athletes are expected to benefit from high-level training sessions, technical exchanges, and direct interaction with competitors from different sporting backgrounds. The G4 tournament will also provide an important opportunity for Afghanistan's Para Taekwondo representatives to test their skills against experienced international athletes and gain valuable competitive experience.
The participation reflects Afghanistan's ongoing efforts to develop para sports and to create more opportunities for athletes with disabilities to compete on global platforms.
Officials and sports supporters hope that such international appearances will help improve athletes' performance, increase exposure for Afghan talent, and contribute to the long-term growth of Para Taekwondo in the country.
The Afghan delegation aims to make a strong impression in South Korea while using the tournament as preparation for future international challenges. **The Kabul Times**



Islamic Emirate Rejects Child Rights Ranking

KABUL – The Islamic Emirate has rejected a recent report by a Dutch child rights organization ranking Afghanistan last among 194 countries in the 2026 Children's Rights Index.
In a statement the other day, Deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, Hamdullah Fitrat, described the report as "baseless," stating that the Islamic Emirate gives special attention to children's education, upbringing, and healthcare.
He said authorities are strictly enforcing laws prohibiting hazardous child labor and have established programs to collect orphaned and homeless children from the streets and provide them with care through official institutions.
This comes after the KidsRights Foundation said that Afghanistan placed 194th out of 194 countries, remaining at the bottom of the global index. Afghan children continue to face significant challenges related to education, protection, healthcare, poverty, and humanitarian conditions.
The KidsRights Foundation said the 2026 report highlights growing threats to children's wellbeing worldwide, including the impact of armed conflict, insecurity, and worsening social conditions. The report also warns that progress in advancing children's rights is slowing or reversing in many parts of the world.
The Kabul Times

Investments Worth $38 Million Approved for Returning Afghan Traders, Ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a statement on Friday that the documents of 18 Afghan industrialists and traders returning from Iran and Pakistan have been officially verified and approved.
The decision was made during a leadership meeting of the committee responsible for facilitating returning investors and businesspeople, which was chaired by Minister Nooruddin Azizi.
The total value of the approved investments amounts to $38 million and expected to contribute to economic activity, industrial development, and job creation within the country, the statement said.
Officials stated that the government remains committed to supporting returning investors by providing necessary facilities and ensuring a favorable environment for business development.
The Kabul Times

UNODC Reaffirms Commitment to Supporting in Afghanistan Counter-Drug Efforts

KABUL: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has announced that it stands alongside the people of Afghanistan in addressing persistent drug-related challenges, emerging threats, and the need for innovative solutions.
In its statement issued on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, UNODC emphasized continued international cooperation and support to strengthen prevention, treatment, and counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan.
The organization reaffirmed its commitment to helping communities build resilience against drug-related harm and supporting sustainable approaches to reduce drug trafficking and abuse.
The Kabul Times

Afghanistan's Anti-Drug Victory Redrawing...

From P3

transitional programs have made localized progress, the broader operational environment remains constrained by severe humanitarian deficits, macroeconomic instability, and compounding environmental stressors that limit immediate agrarian recovery.
Concurrently, the sharp reduction in natural opiate yields has triggered a profound and dangerous transformation across the broader global drug market.
The UNODC's World Drug Report 2026 highlights that the supply shock generated in South Asia has not been fully absorbed by production increases in other traditional hubs, such as Myanmar. Instead, the market is undergoing a process of rapid synthetic substitution.
Transnational trafficking networks are increasingly filling the supply deficit by pivoting toward synthetic opioids—most notably fentanyl and related highly potent analogues—alongside established synthetic stimulants like methamphetamine.
This transition from plant-based narcotics to synthetic chemistries introduces highly complex public health and security challenges.
Synthetic substances require no large-scale agricultural infrastructure, possess significantly shorter production cycles, and can be synthesized in discrete, mobile laboratory environments.
Because these synthetic alternatives possess a exponentially higher potency-to-volume ratio than traditional raw opium, they carry a substantially elevated risk of lethal overdose, threatening to overwhelm regional health systems that are structurally unequipped to manage synthetic addiction.
Consequently, international organizations are actively re-evaluating their clinical intervention strategies, acknowledging that traditional detox and treatment protocols must be rapidly updated to address the distinct pharmacological profiles of synthetic compounds.
The evolving dynamics of the global market are being accelerated by technological integration, expanding supply networks into previously insulated geographical territories.
The UNODC has documented an aggressive expansion of trafficking routes for both methamphetamine and cocaine penetrating deeper into new markets across Africa and Asia.
This geographic diversification demonstrates that the modern narcotics trade functions as an agile, cross-border phenomenon driven by syndicates operating well beyond Afghanistan's frontiers.
The current data underscores that while local enforcement can successfully dismantle a primary production hub, a localized victory does not automatically translate into a contraction of global substance abuse. Instead, it alters the mechanics of supply.
To prevent the complete synthetic substitution of the global market, the international community face an urgent mandate to transition from isolated regional strategies to a highly coordinated, multilateral framework. Addressing this evolving crisis requires a simultaneous dual track: intense long-term investment in rural alternative economies inside source countries, alongside deep, synchronized cooperation among international judicial and law enforcement entities to dismantle the transnational logistical networks driving the synthetic trade.

The Responsibility of Youth in Building...

From P3

Modern technology, if used wisely, can become a powerful instrument for education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and national development.
The central question is not whether opportunities exist, but whether young people choose to use them wisely. Technology can either become a tool for intellectual growth or a source of distraction.
The outcome depends largely on personal discipline, sound guidance, and clear priorities.
Islam places significant responsibility upon young people to become trustworthy custodians of society.
The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) advised believers to value their youth before old age, emphasizing that youth is a precious period for acquiring knowledge, strengthening faith, developing skills, and serving society.
Islam encourages young Muslims to combine intellectual excellence with moral integrity, understanding that both are necessary for building strong communities.
Afghanistan's future will ultimately rest in the hands of its younger generation. The country's reconstruction, economic growth, educational advancement, scientific progress, and social stability will depend upon educated, ethical, and responsible young men and women who possess both professional competence and strong moral character.
Their responsibilities extend beyond personal success; they include contributing to national unity, protecting cultural and Islamic values, promoting justice, strengthening institutions, and working for the welfare of society.
Meeting these responsibilities requires a collective effort.
Educational institutions must teach students not only facts but also critical thinking, research skills, ethical reasoning, and creativity.
Families should cultivate discipline, honesty, respect, and a love of learning.
Religious scholars can continue emphasizing Islam's rich intellectual tradition and its encouragement of beneficial knowledge. The media should promote educational, scientific, and constructive content instead of sensationalism and superficial entertainment.Most importantly, young people themselves must recognize that self-development is a lifelong responsibility. Success cannot be achieved through shortcuts or temporary popularity.
It requires perseverance, continuous learning, strong faith, sound character, and sincere dedication to serving one's country and community.
The intellectual challenges facing today's youth are undeniable.
The overwhelming flow of information, identity struggles, declining reading habits, the culture of instant fame, and economic pressures all shape the thinking of the younger generation.
Yet these same young people also possess unprecedented opportunities for learning, innovation, and leadership.
Those who strengthen their faith, preserve their identity, cultivate knowledge, think critically, and remain committed to truth and excellence will become the architects of Afghanistan's future.
Ultimately, the true wealth of any nation is not found beneath its soil but within the minds, hearts, and character of the young people who dedicate themselves to knowledge, righteousness, and the service of their nation.